

Remarks

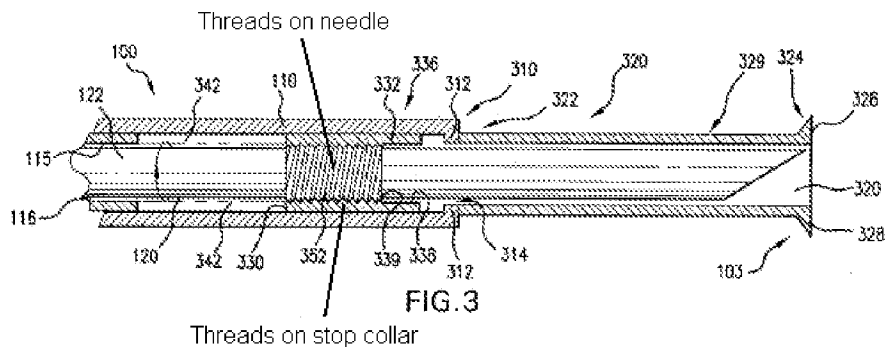
This Response After Final is in reply to the Final Office Action dated **May 28, 2008**, wherein the Office: rejected claims 1, 3 – 4, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and rejected claims 13 – 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The following comments are presented in the same order and with headings corresponding to those set forth in the Office Action.

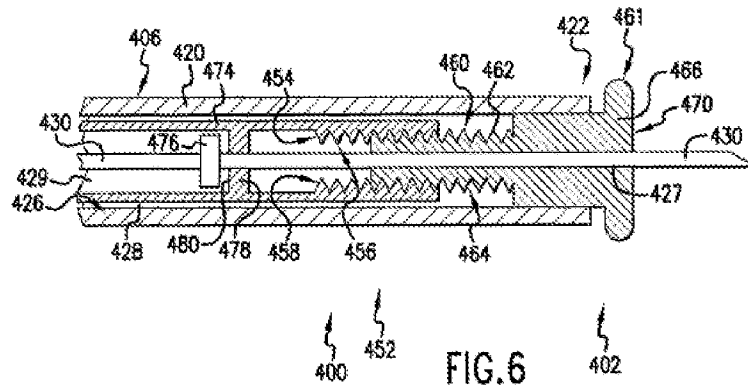
Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office rejected claims 1, 3 – 4, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), alleging the same to be anticipated by WO 02/11807 to Mickley (hereafter “Mickley”). Applicants respectfully disagree because Mickley fails to teach every element of claim 1.

Claim 1 recites, “a first set of threads located on the needle” and “a second set of threads located on the stop collar.” One embodiment of the present invention depicting these features is shown immediately below in an annotated version of FIG. 3:



Although the Office stated that Mickley discloses “a first set of threads 464” and “a second set of threads 454”, the Office has overlooked the *positioning* of the threads, as recited in claim 1. Referring to FIG. 6 of Mickley, shown immediately below, the first set of threads in Mickley are not located on the needle, as in the instant case:



As seen above, there are no threads on the second elongate shaft 430.

Additionally, as seen in a comparison between FIG. 6 of Mickley and FIG. 3 of the instant application, the stop 476 in FIG. 6 corresponds with the stop collar 330 of FIG. 3. There are no threads on the stop 476 in Mickley.

Because Mickley fails to teach all the elements of instant claim 1, Mickey is not anticipatory. Claims 3 – 4 and 17 incorporate all the subject matter of claim 1 and add additional subject matter, making them patentable as well over Mickley. Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 1, 3 – 4, and 17 be allowed.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office rejected claims 13 – 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mickley. As argued above, Mickley fails to teach all the elements of claim 1, from which claims 13 and 14 depend. Whether or not it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to make the first elongated shaft of low friction material, as in claim 13, or use polytetrafluoroethylene to make the first elongated shaft, as in claim 14, as asserted by the Office, does nothing to address the lack of disclosure in Mickley. As such, combining Mickley with what the Office asserts would be known to those of ordinary skill does not produce the embodiments of the invention as claimed in claims 13 and 14. To that end, claims 13 and 14 are non-obvious. Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons presented above, Applicants assert that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early action to that effect are solicited earnestly.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS

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